



**Disk Drive**  
 Oric's disk drive uses 3 inch disks. These come in a protective hard case. The drive gives a capacity of 160K on one side of a disk. The disks can be turned over and used on the other side to give a total of 320K per disk. The Oric disk drives can only cope with sequential files, rather than the more useful random access type

interface system, and up to three slave drives. As yet, no slave units have been produced, but these are expected shortly. The disk drive comes with a separate power transformer, which is powerful enough to drive two disk units and the computer itself. In early versions of the disk operating system, problems occurred when the printer and the disk drive were both switched on. Any attempt to edit a program line resulted in the edited line — as well as all of the numbered program lines — being deleted from the listing. Oric claims that later versions of the operating system have overcome this difficulty.

Although early versions have been subject to problems in printer and cassette use, Oric Products seems to have given a great deal of thought to the production of the Atmos and its peripherals. The design team has taken note of criticisms levelled at the earlier Oric-1 and most of the errors have now been corrected. Oric-1 owners were poorly served by software manufacturers and, to counter this, Oric Products has commissioned Tansoft to produce a set of programs to be used with the disk drive. If software production increases, the Atmos should capture a larger share of a very competitive market.



**Printer/Plotter**  
 One excellent add-on for the Atmos is a printer/plotter. It uses four ball pens to draw lines and text in colour. It can draw text in sizes ranging from miniscule to several inches high. Its drawbacks include paper only 4 1/2 inches wide, slow speed and expensive ball pens. Because the printer/plotter works by drawing thin lines it is not suitable for drawing solid areas of colour

**ORIC ATMOS**

**PRICE**

£169

**DIMENSIONS**

278x178x50 mm

**CPU**

6502

**MEMORY**

48 Kbytes RAM, 16 Kbytes ROM

**SCREEN**

26 rows of 40 columns in text mode and up to 200x240 pixels in eight colours

**INTERFACES**

An expansion port for a Centronics printer interface, cassette port and RGB socket

**LANGUAGES AVAILABLE**

Extended BASIC and FORTH

**KEYBOARD**

58 typewriter-style keys. The Function key is not connected

**DOCUMENTATION**

The manual is thorough and written in a pleasant conversational style that is clearly intended to take the beginner easily through BASIC programming. For the more advanced user there are chapters covering machine code and advanced input/output techniques, as well as a number of appendices giving full technical information

**STRENGTHS**

The Atmos has a wide range of facilities that are not available on more expensive machines. The BASIC is concise and contains a number of commands that make programming easier

**WEAKNESSES**

The method of screen display on the Atmos is hard to work with in high resolution mode. The disk drives are disappointing, being suitable for sequential access only

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